Nuclear arms-control agreement between the US and the USSR

1739. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian ambassador to UN Mr. C. R. Gharekhan had expressed concern over some of the nuclear arms control agreements between the Soviet Union and the USA which while calling for comprehensive test ban, provided for further improvement of nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, in what precise context the statement was made and in what precise terms India's concern was expressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement was made in New York on June 4, 1990 by Shri C. R. Gharekhan, as the Head of Indian delegation for the Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (otherwise known as Partial Test Ban Treaty) for the Organisation of the Amendment Conference. While setting out India's views on the objective of the Amendment Conference Shri Gharekhan emphasised the key importance of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in preventing the upgrading of the existing nuclear weapons systems. He stated, inter alia, "Many nuclear arms control agreements are being negotiated between USA and USSR. This is welcome development. However, none of these agreements prohibit the upgrading of the existing weapon systems, and some even specify the permitted areas for further improvements of weapons, with the exception of the INF Treaty. We hope that in the specific area of nuclear testing, the Depositary States of the PTBT will reaffirm their earlier commitment to achieve the objective of banning all nuclear weapon tests.

Revelation of the Defence Analyast on Pakistan Nuclear options

1740. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the revelations made by the Defence Analyst. Mr. K. Subramanyan as reported in the "Hindustan Times" of 31st May, 1990, to the effect that Pakistan was making all arrangements to keep its nuclear weapons ready for use and first-tune its arsanel;

(b) whether the report of the Analyst has since been confirmed; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government do not have concrete evidence to substantiate the assertions made in the report.

Organisation of Islamic Conference at Cairo on Kashmir

1741. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Government have been relentlessly striving for getting the Organisation of Islamic

Conference (OIC) scheduled at Cairo from July 30 to adopt a resolution proposing a mediation with India on Kashmir by setting up an OIC committee;

(b) if so, the steps according to Government information would have so far been taken by the Pakistan Government in that direction and with what success; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) The OIC Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo from July 31—August 4, 1990 adopted a resolution in which *inter alia*, willingness is expressed to send a good offices mission to ease tension between India and Pakistan and to promote a peaceful settlement.

(c) In a statement by official spokesman on August 6, 1990, it was explained that the root cause of the present tensions between India and Pakistan is Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs including sponsorship of and encouragement to terrorists and subversive activities from across the border. We are firmly convinced that the tensions can be successfully defused only by means of bilateral dialogue and that Pakistan's efforts at internationalising the matter will not help. In fact, Pakistan's very raising of Kashmir at OIC is a violation of the Simla Agreement which stipulates the peaceful and bilateral resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan. We have explained our position to all friendly countries including the OIC member states and they have been left in no doubt that Kashmir is not a religious and therefore not an Islamic issue and that internationalization in any manner will not help the bilateral process in any way.

Threat to the freedom of the Press by the then Deputy Prime Minister

1742. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the threat of censorship, given by the then Deputy Prime Minister, to be imposed on the Press allegedly dominated by the Big Houses;

(b) if so, whether it represented Government's thinking with regard to the freedom of the press; and

(c) if not, what was Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The views expressed by the then Deputy Prime Minister do not represent the Government's thinking on this issue. The Government is fully committed to the freedom of the Press.

Chinese Supply of Arms to Pakistan

1743. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is supplying new sophisticated arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether Chinese are also providing them the technical know-how of the manufacture of atomic weapons;

(c) whether Chinese are also collaborating with Pakistan about the manufacture of new tanks;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereon; and